

CITATION FOR THE APANZ DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD 16 FEBRUARY 2026

CATRIONA CAIRNS

Catriona is a most deserving member to receive this award. She has served this association in many roles since becoming a member in 2009. Initially she was on the Wellington Branch Committee from 2010 to 2015 where her conscientious hard-working and collaborative style was noted. She was encouraged to stand for Council and therein became the Honorary Secretary from 2021 to 2024. This is a role requiring attention to detail and much behind the scenes work wrestling with legal and constitutional questions. This is Catriona's favourite position, not being in the forefront, but over the years she has come to be noticed by all for her meticulous efficient work, her unflappable nature and her kindness. She mentored the Executive Officer over those years on Council with a weekly meeting, a task not assigned to her but the need was noticed, and as a result the relationship between council and its executive arm was smooth and efficient.

Catriona was invited to join the ACP committee in 2022. She protested her inadequacy and inexperience but the committee knew what a gem she would be and this was proved over the following years. She gained experience as a marker of written work, as an assessing panelist and then as a moderator. These are delicate and difficult roles and need someone who is clear thinking, a moderate who is not pulled to the soft or hard edges of assessment and who can create positive working relationships out of difficult situations. In all these roles she has worked tirelessly and ethically, balancing the needs to attend to the developing strengths of the candidates whilst maintaining the standards of the qualification. She also initiated a monthly forum for all ACP candidates creating a safe place of peer support, offering wisdom and encouragement when asked. This support continues today. She has also worked collaboratively with others on the committee in delivering training to both candidates and supervisors. All this alongside the almost daily work of the ACP committee, accepting tasks with characteristic good will and efficiency.

In 2024 Catriona agreed to take on the position of Chair of the ACP committee. Again she protested her inadequacy but of course she discharges this role with quiet competence ensuring the committee thoroughly and ethically wrestles with every presented situation. She chairs the bi-monthly meeting of the National Supervisors' Group which is a thoughtful and cohesive group through her leadership. The role of Chair has also required her return to Council Executive. This is yet another demand on her time, but she cheerfully and generously makes valuable contributions to Council debate.

It is fitting that this Award be presented at the 2026 APANZ conference. Catriona has been a member of the organizing committee and true to her nature and reputation she has willingly taken on some of the hardest tasks which have required diplomacy, patience, attention to detail and above all the forging of generous and genuine relationships.

Catriona we salute you and you have the admiration and respect of our whole Association.